Instalment of dearness allowance

2710. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that instalment of dearness allowance to Central Government employees and pensions have been released with effect from July 1st, 2002;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in announcing the DA; and

(c) whether Government are considering merging the DA/relief of Central Government employees/pensioners in their salaries/pension and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter of payment of Dearness Allowance was also one of the issues which remained under discussion in the meeting of the State Finance Minister's Conference and the Conference by the Prime Minister with the Chief Ministers.

(c) Before taking a final decision on the Fifth Central Pay Commission recommendation relating to merging of DA with basic pay it has been decided to hold formal discussions with the Staff Side under the Scheme of Joint Consultative Machinery.

OTS Scheme for marginal farmers

2711. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI has issued a circular to all public sector banks regarding initiation of special one-time settlement scheme for small and marginal farmers in order to meet the commitment made in the Finance Minister's Budget Speech;

(b) if so, to what extent this scheme will deal with indebtedness to farmers;